APRIL

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, April 16

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

SPEAKER: Dr. William J. Hamilton, III

SUBJECT: "AFRICA'S WHITE BEETLE PUZZLE"

Dr. Hamilton, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of California at Davis, will present an illustrated talk based upon recent behavioral investigations of Namib Desert beetles. These diurnal insects live on the vast vegetationless and uninhabited (by man) sand dunes extending 800 miles from South Africa to Angola.

The purpose of Dr. Hamilton's studies was to determine why this desert is the only place in the world where there are *white* beetles. Most beetles on other deserts such as the Gobi and the Sahara are black.

Members will recall that Dr. Hamilton spent considerable time at the Academy in the early sixties utilizing Morrison Planetarium in his investigation of the orienting abilities of birds which migrate at night.

One presentation only at 8:00 p.m. with seats on a first-come first-served basis. If the auditorium is filled, late-comers will be invited to enjoy "The Space Ship We Live On" in Morrison Planetarium. Your 1969 Membership Card is your admission.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"THE SPACE SHIP WE LIVE ON" continues in the Theatre of the Stars through April 27. Man is a passenger on a tiny space ship which has been traveling for billions of years and (all things being equal and if he doesn't overreach himself) will continue to travel billions more.

Performances daily at 2:00 with evening shows Wednesday through Sunday at 8:30. Extra matinees at 3:30 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The Planetarium is dark on Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission: Adults, $1.00. Students (with student body card), armed services personnel, and children under 16, 50c.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES: A Showcase of Unusual Adaptations" continues on display in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature. Color photographs and commentary by Dr. Nathan W. Cohen of the University of California at Berkeley.

From the Academy Collections: "BEAUTY SPOTS", pelts of spotted cats such as cheetah, leopard, jaguar, ocelot, margay, and snow leopard. From the Department of Mammalogy. Main Foyer, Science Museum.

NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .

IN RECOGNITION of its important position as a center for scientific research, the Academy has been awarded a grant of $62,600 by the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. The one-year grant for "Care of Systematic Collections" was based on acknowledgement of the Academy's burgeoning collections of scientific specimens which have come to it, not only through its own efforts, but from other institutions and organizations — material which needs care and curatorial attention in order that it becomes available for students, scientists and scholars from around the world. Such institutions as the University of California and Stanford University have selected the Academy as a great central repository and have presented it with masses of important material heretofore available only on the individual campuses. The grant will help with the incorporation of that material into the Academy collections.

In making the bequest, the National Science Foundation considered the Academy "a National resource, pertaining to systematic research and education throughout the country", an honor indeed.

NOW THAT IT HAS settled down in its handsome and comfortable new quarters atop North American Hall, the Picture Collection welcomes any and all volunteers who would like to contribute a few hours each week bringing order to a mass of material ready for the files. Scientific training is not necessary though helpful as is an ability to type. If you are interested, telephone either Mr. Kooy or Mr. Anderson at 221-5100, Extension 73.

AS AN EXCITING PRELUDE to the grand opening of Cowell Hall in mid-May, the Edward Hohfeld Hall of Space Science will be opened to the public officially on May 2. Located in the Science Museum opposite Morrison Auditorium, the dramatically conceived "Moon Theatre" is the most prominent feature which focusses on a three-dimensional, six-foot topographical model of the moon suspended darkly in space. When completed, lights and narration will demonstrate the phases through which the moon passes.

One wall of the hall is devoted to 15 enlarged color transparencies covering various aspects of our solar system and beyond — planets, stars, constellations and comets.

The wall opposite the entrance from Cowell Hall takes advantage of the latter's daylight to limn the history of flight from mythology up through man's first walk in space.

This newest addition to Academy exhibits was made possible by Mrs. Edward Hohfeld whose gift of $54,600 covered the construction and maintenance. All San Francisco and its visitors are in her debt, and we are proud to honor the memory of her distinguished husband whose strong interest made Morrison Planetarium possible.

ON FEBRUARY 22, Washington's Birthday 1969, the cashier on duty at the Morrison Planetarium box office sold a memorable ticket, the 2,000,000th to be purchased since the Theatre of the Stars opened in November 1952. It is also a pleasure to share the knowledge that planetarium attendance is up some 17% from a year ago — a sizeable increase in anyone's book. Congratulations are in order to Captain Robert D. Risser and his capable staff!

IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING of the Hohfeld Hall of Space Science and as a public service to the community there will be free showings on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's stunning film, "DEBRIEF APOLLO 8", footage taken by the three astronauts of their successful mission, plus filmed assessments by national figures on this daring exploit. Showings in Morrison Auditorium at noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. on the appointed days.

THE 64TH ANNUAL MEETING of the American Association of Museums will be held in San Francisco, May 25-29. With the other museums of the Bay Area, the Academy will co-host this event.

Meet The Staff . . .

HERBERT E. PRUETT, Assistant in the Department of Exhibits, is a man of many talents. Prior to his coming to the Academy (August 1968) he was employed on the staff of the physics department of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory. Before that he was an employee of Sandia Corporation (of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission) in highly technical pursuits, and before *that*, there was a period of four years of service in the U.S. Air Force which culminated in a job as an "electronics" technician.

Though born in Independence, Missouri, the major part of his life and education has been in the San Francisco Bay Area: Fairmont Grammar School, City College of San Francisco, Chabot Junior College at Hayward, and the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. Four years of high school were at Riverdale, California.

He is a photographer, sculptor, artist, designer and musician (a better-than-average pianist). He is the author of a commercially successful guidebook to "Golden Gate Park", the title of the work. He is a "worker in wood", having built not only walls in his present domicile but also most of the furniture it contains. He is interested in literature, particularly history, and enlarging his knowledge of interior design.

Herb, in a brief period, has contributed considerably to the Academy's exhibits in both doing new ones and refurbishing old. Currently and as time permits, he is experimenting with new techniques available for the creation of botanical items for the various dioramas. He is also at work on a guide to the Academy which he hopes will be available to the public before the year is out.

(Photo by Lloyd Ullberg)

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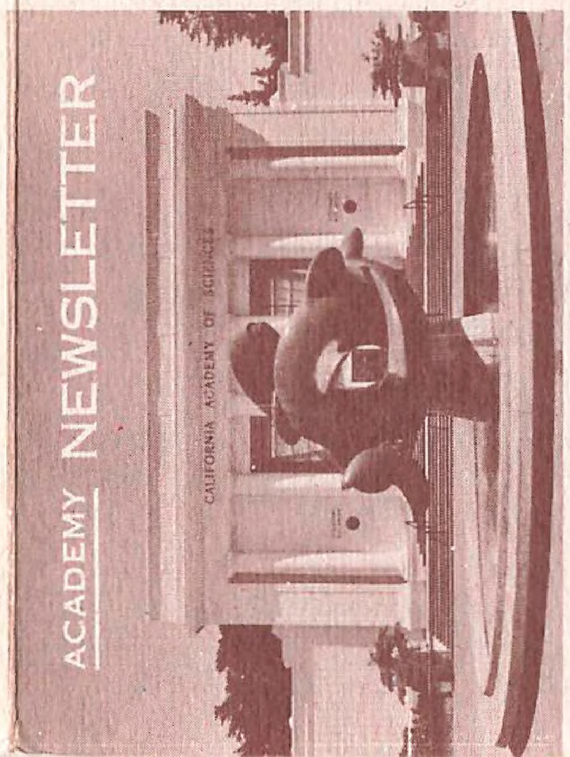

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